



the Beacon

of the Lake Sunapee Protective Association

May 2011



Today's LSPA leadership team enjoys a light moment during a recent Board meeting. Left to right: Secretary Taffy Beckman, Executive Director June Fichter, President Tanya Wilkie, Vice Presidents Charlie Forbes and Dave Macdonald, and Treasurer Phil Schulz.

The Leadership of LSPA: the Individuals Who Have Made Us What We Are Today

A strong nonprofit organization with a long history gets to that position because of the individuals who have stepped up to lead it. The modern LSPA is an organization that has attracted just the right skills at the right moment, and the interests and talents of strong leaders have shaped its history. Frank Hammond, LSPA's Executive Director from 1974-1991, recently reminisced for Nancy Dutton and Midge Eliassen's Lake Sunapee History Project about how he came to be Executive Director and the leadership styles of the LSPA Presidents under whom he worked. The first installment appears here; the second part will be in the June issue of the Beacon.

Frank Hammond's Thoughts and Recollections

Sometime during the early part of the summer [1974], I received a phone call from Professor John Howard (whom I didn't know at the time). He wanted to tell me about the Association. I had no idea what he had in mind. This was the beginning of what was to become a warm friendship. I learned later that the

(LSPA Leaders, Cont. Page 6)

Wild Goose Appeals Upheld by Councils

In February 2010, LSPA began filing three appeals of permits granted by NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to NH Fish & Game (F&G) for the construction of a boat launch at the Wild Goose site in Newbury. As we go to press, two council decisions have remanded one permit back to DES and upheld the appeal of another, for the two boat ramps and paved parking area for 36 cars at the three acre site off Birch Grove Road. Both decisions need to be confirmed in writing.

The Wetlands Council deliberated the Shoreland permit and made its decision on technical points that do not address the substantive issues brought forth by LSPA and its attorney, Greg Smith of the McLane law firm in Concord. This permit was lacking appropriate authorization and F&G did not properly notify Newbury as required by law.

As reported in the February 2011 *Beacon*, the Water Council has voted that the Alteration of Terrain permit must go back to DES to be reviewed. This council has is in the process of writing its decision.

The Wetlands Council has now begun deliberation on the wetlands permit appeal which will continue in June.

It is uncertain at this point what exactly these actions will mean — whether or not F&G must begin the

(Wild Goose, Cont. Page 7)



From the Helm: LSPA's Learning Center

I am often asked, "Why does LSPA need such a large building?" The answer is, it is **LSPA's Learning Center**. The idea for a learning center came from a five year LSPA strategic planning retreat in November, 2006. One of the major take-aways for the day was the need for an education center to promote education and research. LSPA's mission statement speaks of "a member-supported non profit educational organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the special environment of the Lake Sunapee region." In order to effectively accomplish this goal, LSPA needs a classroom for children's and adult programs, a science research center, and a place for visiting scientists and interns to stay.

The Moses Knowlton House, a historic landmark in Sunapee Harbor, was built just ten years before LSPA was founded in 1898. Col. W. S. B. Hopkins stated at LSPA's first annual meeting "The lake is the one jewel that calls in all here". He recognized we owed it to future generations to care for this special place. The merging of the histories of LSPA and The Knowlton House was a perfect fit.

Since the purchase of The Knowlton House, LSPA has charted a course true to its mission statement of educational outreach, scientific research, and collaborative action. Examples of **educational outreach** can be seen in the expanded educational programs offered through LSPA's Learning Center. In 2010, Kathleen Stowell's educational programs reached 1,000 children, including a Sugar River unit with the source in Sunapee Harbor, a teacher's institute on "No Student Left Indoors," and Harborside Learning Adventures for children at LSPA during the summer. In addition, the Knowlton House harbor room was often packed with people attending the summer evening speaker presentations.

Scientific research can best be illustrated by three large projects made possible by our expanded space: A demonstration of rain gardening and a garden of shore land plants; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association storm water runoff grant with LSPA as task force headquarters; and a field station for visiting scientists to conduct research, including a new study of mercury in Sunapee's tributary streams under a National Institutes of Health grant. In October, 2011, the Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) international conference will be headquartered at LSPA's Learning Center with 110 scientists attending from around the world! (LSPA's water quality buoy, transmitting data to the web, is part of the GLEON network.)

Collaborative action speaks for itself. LSPA is proud to partner with and share our learning center with other nonprofit organizations, town officials, schools and other community organizations.

LSPA's vision statement states "LSPA plays a leadership role in providing **knowledge that facilitates environmentally sound decisions**" — hence our learning center. I invite you all to come and learn!

Tanya Wilkie, President

Memorial Contributions

LSPA has recently received contributions honoring the memory of:

Alan Buros, Jr.
Lucille Dane
Curtis Ivey
Remsen Kinne
Anne Ray
William I. Rogers
Robert Skelley

Our sincere thanks to the families and friends who thought LSPA an appropriate recipient for these memorial gifts.

Officers, 2010-2011:

Tanya Wilkie	President
Charlie Forbes	1st. V. Pres.
Dave Macdonald	2nd. V. Pres.
Taffy Beckman	Secretary
Phil Schulz	Treasurer
Jack Holton	Clerk

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June Fichter	Executive Director
Robert Wood	Assoc. Exec. Dir.
Kathleen Stowell	Education Dir.
Kak Weathers	Research Dir.
Sue Godin	Office Admin.
Bonnie Lewis	Lab Manager
Geoff Lizotte	Watershed

Office: The Knowlton House
 63 Main Street, Sunapee Harbor
 Mail: PO Box 683, Sunapee, NH 03782
 Phone: 603-763-2210/Fax: 603-763-2077
 email: lspa@lakesunapee.org
www.lakesunapee.org

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All articles prepared by Staff, Officers, *Beacon* committee or *Beacon* Editor Midge Eliassen unless noted. Photos by Midge Eliassen unless credited otherwise.

New Scientist and Research at LSPA

In mid April, civil engineer and physical oceanographer Dan MacDonald met with research director Kak Weathers and some of the scientists studying Gloeo (a cyanobacterium blooming in Lake Sunapee). MacDonald, who has a PhD from the MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Joint Program, studies the physical processes of water bodies. Most of his work is on ocean water movement and rivers as they enter the ocean. He is an associate professor at the UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology, and some of his recent work has been on the Merrimack River plume. He is also interested in renewable energy devices that can produce electricity from wave energy.

Internal Lake Waves — Seiches

MacDonald explained to the “Gloeo gang” some analysis he has done of wave motion in Lake Sunapee. When a water body is stratified as Lake Sunapee is during summer months, when warm surface water overlies colder water at depth, internal waves can set up far below the surface. These waves can move water back and forth in the basin — much like the waves created when you step up out of a bath. These internal waves are called “seiches” (the singular is pronounced “saysh”). When wind blows the surface water towards one end of the lake, eventually it creates a seiche at the level where the cold lower water and warmer surface water meet (the thermocline). The seiche may persist for weeks after the wind event has ended, sloshing back and forth repeatedly from one of the basin to another.

Seiches in Lake Sunapee

MacDonald has graphed data from the LSPA buoy of fluctuations in wind and lake water temperature that are factors in figuring out the wave length of seiches in Lake Sunapee. The scientists studying Gloeo were intrigued by a parallel in MacDonald’s graphs and a graph they have made that shows peaks in Gloeo blooms. Is it purely coincidental? Or is wave mo-

tion a factor in the blooming or dispersal of Gloeo?

The scientists put their heads together and came up with a further series of questions for which physical studies of wave motion in the lake might provide some answers.

Research this Summer

MacDonald is interested in doing a preliminary investigation of wave motion in Lake Sunapee this summer. He would place on the bottom of the lake an instrument called an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ACDP) that sends out acoustic beams at different angles at set intervals. By listening for return echoes from the acoustic beam, the ACDP can determine water velocity in much the same way that a police radar gun can measure the speed of a passing car. From the data collected over the course of a month or two, MacDonald’s analysis could begin to show how water moves in Lake Sunapee, especially whether or not it is moving between the multiple basins revealed by the recent bathymetry study. The data may also provide an indication of whether lake motion is correlated to winds, temperature, or other forcing mechanisms.

The meeting of the scientists ended with a plan to deploy MacDonald’s equipment this summer — and excitement over the information this new collaboration may yield.

Beacon Article Leads to Scientist’s Interest in Studying Lake Sunapee

How did Dan MacDonald get involved with exploring the movement of water in Lake Sunapee?

Dan grew up in New London and attended Kearsarge Regional High School before going to UNH and Cornell, then getting his PhD in the MIT/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Joint Program. He came to Lake Sunapee last summer for a family vacation, and rented a cottage on Bowles Road. The owners had a stack of back issues of *the Beacon*, and MacDonald enjoyed flipping through them. An article that caught his eye was the December 2008 story on the bathymetrical (bottom contour) study of Lake Sunapee that had been done that summer. The article ended with the description of the basins in Lake Sunapee, including questions about how water may move in the lake and in particular how water might be exchanged between basins. These questions were a perfect match with MacDonald’s current research, so he contacted LSPA Research Director Kak Weathers and expressed an interest. She sent him some data from the LSPA buoy, and the rest, as they say, is history. (*See adjacent article.*)



Dan MacDonald explains a seiche to LSPA scientists.

Unusual Collaborative Scientific Relationships at LSPA

We are all familiar with the stereotypes of academic science — the competition for funds and advancement and the resulting secrecy about research, data and outcomes until publication. This context makes the scientific research happening through and around LSPA all the more remarkable.

When you observe meetings of members of LSPA's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) the open and collaborative atmosphere is evident. There are offers of currently unused equipment here, lab space there, or the time of a lab tech to help another group finish up sample counting. Ideas are exchanged as freely, with a tremendous amount of cross-discipline brainstorming. The major research grants of which LSPA is a part usually involve scientists from different universities, and many students who are learning from their participation. Each of the teams for specific research projects works with this same open sharing.

Leader Sets the Tone

The unusual collaborative tone has its origins in the leadership. When Executive Director Gordon Marshall and (then) Visiting Scientist Kak Weathers established the SAC in 2005, they envisioned scientists with a wide range of backgrounds coming together to advise LSPA on scientific issues relevant to water quality. Neither really anticipated the degree to which those individuals would wish to work together and with LSPA on specific research projects. However, Weathers, who frequently describes herself as a catalyzer, reached out to fill the SAC with contacts from her professional world who were inclined to work collaboratively. The general tone became established, joint grant applications were made, and the various sub teams all work this way. There is a real desire to model teamwork for the students coming into scientific research under these collaboratively minded scientists.

LSPA's Partner Role

The other unusual model of collaboration in the scientific research at

LSPA is in the extent to which LSPA itself is a partner in the grants. It is a new thrust for hard science to incorporate partners who will "translate" and disseminate research findings, making them accessible and usable. Scientists have recognized that for their work to have practical meaning beyond the inherent value of their discoveries, citizens and policy makers must understand it and include the findings as background for their decision making. So LSPA's role as a partner in much of the research done by SAC members is not only to provide logistical support but to share the knowledge and use the insights to help guide its own activities. LSPA provides meeting and storage space at its headquarters. Thanks to funding through some of these grants, The Knowlton House has the necessary communications infrastructure and display capabilities to include distant scientists in meetings and allow meetings to function efficiently. LSPA offers access to the lake through the harbor and its pontoon boat or through LSPA members. June Fich-

ter's and Robert Wood's knowledge of the lake and Wood's skills as certified lake manager are valuable to the scientists, and they in turn do research on questions about lake processes and management important to LSPA.

These unusual relationships make working on research projects at Lake Sunapee, through LSPA, especially satisfying for the scientists who hope that these attitudes become more common in future scientific undertakings.

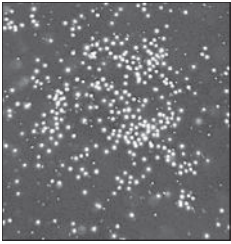
Water Quality Monitor Needed

LSPA needs a volunteer water quality monitor, with a boat, in the Chandler Cove area of Newbury. LSPA will train the new monitor, who will sample once a month from June through October. Please call LSPA 763-2210 if you can join the team.



Researcher Sam Fey is cautiously out on the ice on December 20, as the Gloeo team installs light sensitive data loggers on the bottom of the lake. They want to see if there is any difference in readings from meters under normal ice versus those placed where de-icing mechanisms have been in use.
Photo by Elizabeth Traver

Gloeo Summit



The team of scientists studying the cyanobacterium *Gloeotricia echinulata*, with funding from the National Science Foundation,

come together in regular information and planning sessions they call “Gloeo Summits”. The team held sessions mid and late summer in 2010, and launched the 2011 research year with a Gloeo summit at LSPA in April.

Team members from the Cary Institute in Millbrook, NY, Cornell, Dartmouth and Bates are conducting a variety of research projects related to the overarching study, but they are not together in the field. Coming together to look at data and outcomes, ask questions, share critical thinking, and plan ahead is a vital activity.

The dozen assembled for the April session (including LSPA representatives) updated each other on relevant research outcomes from last summer’s data, which generated new questions, additional things to analyze, and items to add to the research list for this summer.

New insights may come from mathematical modeling being done by Meredith Greer of Bates College. She has been analyzing various factors (light and temperature as a start) to see if we have enough information to reconstruct the timing and magnitude of Gloeo blooms. Her next steps are to try to examine patterns across years and consider whether other factors need to be included in the model.

Data now includes some from various Maine lakes that have heavy Gloeo blooms, thanks to work by the Bates College team led by Holly Ewing.

Team members left the meeting with a list of data analysis and other tasks to be completed before the field research season.

There will be another Gloeo summit on June 15 to finalize plans for the summer research season.

Gloeo Summary: What We Know

The scientists at the Gloeo summit prepared for LSPA a list of headlines or tidbits on what we now know about the Gloeo blooms at Lake Sunapee, based on six years of observation, data gathering, and analysis. All have been reported in more depth in prior issues of *the Beacon*.

- Gloeo blooms are not just a Sunapee occurrence — they are happening in lakes across the Northeast.
- Gloeo is not a newcomer — analysis of sediment cores from the lake shows that it has been here since before the time of agricultural impact in the watershed.
- Gloeo is toxic (though the concentrations in Lake Sunapee are still quite low compared to some other lakes, and not yet at worrisome levels).
- The peak, or a Gloeo “bloom”, tends to be a late summer phenomenon (though there is often also a small bloom around July 4).
- There is a Gloeo hotspot in Herrick Cove, though it is present throughout the lake.

- Wind matters -- wind moves Gloeo around and affects where a bloom appears.
- High concentrations of Gloeo stimulate other phytoplankton in small-scale experiments.
- Gloeo likely acquires its necessary nutrients from streams, the atmosphere, sediments and septic systems.

LSPA Logo Items Available from Online Store

Sweatshirts, tee shirts, coffee mugs, tote bags and other LSPA logo items can be purchased through LSPA’s website: www.lakesunapee.org/store/index/html. Navigation and bathymetry maps and a fish poster can also be ordered through the LSPA website.

All purchases benefit LSPA.



Spring Thing — Adults and children join LSPA’s Kathleen Stowell (left) and The Fells’ new education director Michael Caduto (third from right, holding net) to examine frogs’ eggs from a vernal pool at The Fells.

(LSPA Leaders, Cont. from Page 1)

directors of LSPA, in thinking about the future of the organization, were in the process of restructuring its way of running the show by creating a new position, an Executive Director (ED), who would carry out the policies of the board. Its members had previously depended on **Sally Hartwell**, recording secretary, (my first unsung hero) to supervise the association's three activities: (1) Don Bent's water testing program (2) the regular monitoring of water levels at the Harbor and (3) the preparation of a bulletin that would go out a few times a year to keep members informed. Sally, on her own initiative, wrote the text and Becky Hill from Hill's secretarial services would type up Sally's first drafts and conduct a mailing. Other services (when they came) were conducted by other members of board. For example: casual lobbying for lake legislation. Orr and Reno, a Concord law firm, performed that function in an informal but very effective way. Both partners had Lake Sunapee property.

Although Sally performed the duties of ED, she was not duly recognized or compensated for her work. It was in 1973, I think, that the Board hired **Ernest Sherman** from Newbury to be the first to officially hold the position. Ernest was a highly principled person who had strong feelings about the health of the lake, as Newbury's health officer and Selectman. He also served briefly on the faculty at Proctor Academy before assuming a part time position at LSPA. Ernest resigned abruptly when he disagreed with some of the Board decisions relating to conducting specific studies around the lake, leaving LSPA once again without an ED. During his brief tenure, he oversaw some of the earlier soils studies conducted to identify run off patterns. He later volunteered his support to the new ED as the town's health officer, by walking the Newbury shoreline searching for questionable septic tanks and used his authority to get these flawed systems corrected. He was a good resource to LSPA.

After Ernest resigned, John How-

ard - with Board approval - decided to find someone who could give his full time in the summer to be ED and part time during the "off season." It became apparent a public school teacher with a lot of time and flexibility during the summer months would make for a good match. I think it was Dick Webb who recommended me. After a score of interviews with board members, I was nominated to be the new ED. It wasn't until later that I learned from our school principal and the superintendent of the school that they did an exhaustive background study on me to make sure I was the man for the job. I hadn't ever remembered getting so much attention.

John Howard 1966-1975

John Howard - an important figure in the Association's history - was a stage setter. Prior to his presidency, LSPA was perceived as a sleepy eyed organization that got fairly active during the season and pretty much closed its operations after Labor Day with the exception of the testing program that went on and Sally's off season bulletin. Don't get me wrong; there were things sponsored and directed by individuals like Blackie Tilson who pretty much went out on his own to conduct lake studies. But there was no comprehensive plan in place to support these projects until John came along. He was a man of vision who had a clear cut understanding of LSPA's role in the future, and, in his very patient and diplomatic way, began the long process of getting the Board to come up with a (strategic) plan to get the Board involved as policy makers. Professor Howard had the background to carry this off. He was an economist who served on the faculty of the Columbia Business School and was very much to date with the current literature addressing management issues pertaining to non-profit organizations.

Warren Howard 1975-1979

Warren Howard, Professor Howard's successor (and not a relation), came just at the right time. The Association had already begun to overextend itself when the ED's position was created. It became quite apparent that

LSPA just didn't have the revenues to support these projects. Warren, therefore, had to make hard-nosed decisions. He was candid with me by saying that they'd have to cut back on my services until more money came in. Then, on his own initiative, he looked carefully at the membership list and identified those families that had the potential to contribute more than what they were giving. Warren personally called each one of these people, did some arm twisting and got them to increase their membership dues significantly so that we could meet budget demands. Obviously, he concentrated on the Yacht Club group where he got the most support. He was a tough business man and demanding of others but he was fair and accurate in his assessment of LSPA's limited resources. That all changed under his watch - an important development because we now were in a better financial position than ever before, with guarantees that the money would be there to meet our increasing responsibilities.

Curt Chapman 1979-1982

General Curtis W. Chapman, Jr., married to Terry Richards of the Newport Richards family, was a proud graduate of West Point, before beginning a long career in the military as a combat engineer. He served during WW II, the Korean conflict, and Vietnam and saw a lot of action along the way. A product of a humble rural tradition (Oklahoma), he was recognized for his academic talents and became a candidate for the Academy to which he remained fiercely loyal as an alumnus, deeply grateful for the free education he received there which he wouldn't have been able to obtain otherwise. Curt often made mention of this reflectively during our long conversations with each other during his tenure as President of LSPA. He was a true patriot. The good general was a natural born leader. Enter Curt, and heads turned. When it became apparent that he was going to be taking over LSPA, I was initially petrified, having been a corporal in the army during the Korean crisis. Officers at that level of command were very

remote and inaccessible to the foot soldier. We would never see these guys except in parades when we would march by the stands and snap a salute to a faraway figure standing at attention and observing our every move. True story: the day after the LSPA annual meeting at which Curt was installed, I got a phone call and answered it from my den downstairs, hearing the voice on the other end say, "Frank. This is Curt. I have a few questions..." which he proceeded to ask. It wasn't until a few moments later that I realized that I was standing in front of my desk ... all alone ... at attention ... waiting to hear the familiar order "At ease, soldier," which of course didn't happen. Curt had very carefully developed military management skills that worked very effectively with us. Under his watch, our committee system was formalized. He took great pains to appoint competent chairs, gave them assignments (short and long range ones) and the authority to go ahead and get the job done. Curt didn't have to use Robert's Rules to conduct a meeting. He simply went through the agenda giving each item sufficient attention and listened to other views before seeking a consensus and making a decision. His meetings were very productive because he had complete control over the decision making processes in which all members participated. His was a smooth running operation because everyone unquestionably knew and respected the leadership that guided them through the process. It was very comforting to us to have this kind of leadership support.

Curt's legacy: He shared Professor Howard's view that LSPA - one of the oldest lake associations in the state - should begin to exercise its influence by looking beyond its immediate waters and build bridges of communication with other lake associations who had similar goals. We drew up a list of all of them in the region and personally reached each of these organizations with our introductions and ideas. We were warmly received, and when Curt suggested that we have a regional lake associations conference, the reac-

tion was very favorable, so we went ahead and planned it, a first in LSPA's history. Curt - representing us - hosted the event, much to everybody's delight. We took over the facilities at the new Sunapee High School and drew scores of organizations - along with state officials - to meet in general session, and then small groups to come up with ideas for a plan to formulate regional lake management goals to be carried out collectively. It was all a great success because we were able to meet and form friendships with people from other associations around us who also wanted to lend their support. Curt, once again, emerged as a natural leader for pulling this off.

To be continued in the June issue.

(Wild Goose, Cont. from Page 1)

permitting process again under the current "new" shoreland protection regulations, adopted after F&G's original application. (Further complicating this issue is the fact that the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection regulations may be changed in the current legislative term.)

Meanwhile, the Merrimack County Superior Court petition by the town of Newbury for declaratory judgment, on issues around a driveway permit and deed restrictions, goes forward, with Newbury and LSPA having answered interrogatory questions as part of this process.

Robert H. Skelley, 1930-2011

Former LSPA President Robert Skelley died in April. The Skelley family had spent summers on Lake Sunapee while he was owner of Stoneham Lumber Company in Massachusetts, before retiring here in 1986. "Skel" was President of LSPA 1988-1991. During his LSPA years, he convened weekly Saturday morning meetings at his Fernwood home, where interested people gathered and plans for the organization were made over his famous home baked muffins. These sessions yielded an esprit de corps, commitment, and excitement over the future of LSPA. During Skelley's years, *the Beacon* was started, a shared office was opened in New London, the volunteer water quality testing program was launched, and LSPA began its involvement in the Wild Goose property.



The ice was officially out of Lake Sunapee on April 21, allowing boat passage from Georges Mills to Newbury. However, it was on a day of strong northwest winds, and Soo Nipi beach and the east side of the lake were still impassable several days later. Loons returned to the lake as soon as there was open water, with the first sighting April 15.

LSPA

PO Box 683
Sunapee, NH 03782
603-763-2210
www.lakesunapee.org

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Dates for Your Summer Calendar

Tuesday, **June 14**, 6:30pm LSPA: Public **Vision-to-Action forum** on the Lake Sunapee Watershed Infrastructure Project. All are welcome to hear the data and proposed solutions, from this grant to help protect Lake Sunapee from flooding and stormwater damage.

Saturday, **June 25**, 9am, LSPA: **Weed Watch Kickoff Meeting**. The latest on invasive plants.

Saturday, **July 16**, 8:30am, LSPA **Annual Meeting and landscape tour**.

Saturday, **July 23 Beacon Night at The Knowlton House**: Grab your neighbor and head over for this event celebrating our current and future members, in our lovely Knowlton House in Sunapee Harbor.

Saturday, **August 14 Love Your Lakes Day and Antique and Classic Boat Parade**.

Like to Kayak? Garden? Love Loons?

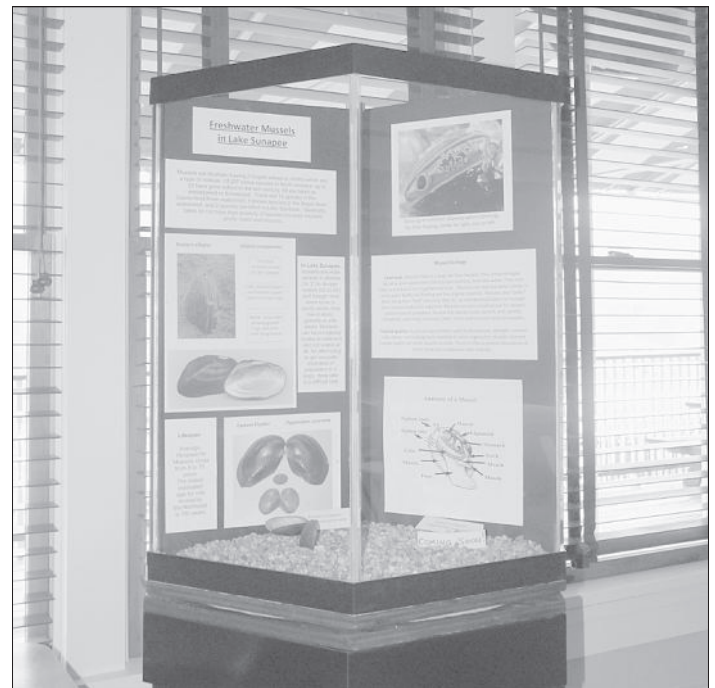
LSPA needs volunteers who enjoy gardening, kayaking and snorkeling, or watching loons. Please join us and share your pleasures and talents.

Loon observers record sightings and loon calls, so we can track the presence of loons at Lake Sunapee. Loon watchers are particularly needed from the southern part of the lake, but all new loon lovers are welcome.

The Knowlton House gardens, including the new demonstration rain garden with native shoreland plantings, are maintained by a corps of volunteer gardeners including several master gardeners who share their expertise.

Weed watchers snorkel or kayak along their shorelines, our first defense against invasive plants. Become familiar with what plant species are in their accustomed places and you will quickly notice any changes to report, or questionable plants to monitor.

Please call LSPA 763-2210 to join in any of these volunteer activities.



Among new exhibits at LSPA's Learning Center is this one on freshwater mussels, put together by Robert Wood as part of his ongoing study of mussel beds in Lake Sunapee.

This issue of *the Beacon* has been sponsored by:



LSPA appreciates this support.

The Lake Sunapee Protective Association, founded in 1898, is a member-supported nonprofit educational organization. We are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the environmental qualities of the Lake Sunapee region. We strive to achieve this mission through education, research and collaborative action.